

State Council on Workforce Services

April 24, 2006

2:00 p.m.

Attendees: Leticia Medina, Deb Dull, Tammie Lucero, Stephen Goodrich, Jason Perry, Greg Diven, Darris Howe, Steve Maas, Jolyn Bevan, Jane Broadhead, Connie Laws, Bob Gilbert, Helen Thatcher, Christian Ward, Stephanie Smith, Paul Jackson, Jon Pierpont, James Whitaker, Melissa Finch, Randy Hopkins, Faye Hubbard, Stan Eckersley, Jan Thompson, Kathy Leydsman, Kathleen Johnson, Julie Lay, Lynette Robinson, John Slade, Stacey Cummings, Deborah Van Leeuwen, James English, Bill Crim, Marie Christman, Libbie Zenger, Christopher Love, John Nixon, Tani Downing, Mike Richardson, Kevin Crandall, Representative David Hogue, Mary Gehman-Smith

Welcome and Opening Business - Kevin Crandall

Kevin welcomed the group and introduced Jan Thompson, Western Region Director. Jan stated the St. George area is growing and the Employment Center is facing urban problems. She acknowledged the Western Region staff for creating the welcome bags. Local employers contributed these gifts.

Consent Agenda and Action Items - Kevin Crandall

Kevin called for approval of the Consent Agenda. Deborah Van Leeuwen motioned to approve the 12 January 2006 meeting minutes as written, Libbie Zenger seconded the motion and the motion carried. Kevin called for approval of three training providers, Todd's CDL Service, Clarus Medical Training Center, and Sunset Fire and Rescue Academy. Darris Howe motioned to approve the training providers, John Slade seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Executive Director's Report - Tani Pack Downing

Tani welcomed the group and introduced Stan Eckersley, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, and Christian Ward, Planning and Budget Analyst. She reported the following:

- The Comprehensive Unemployment Benefits System (CUBS) that was implemented January 1, 2006 has been a major success with a projected \$1 million dollar annual reduction in mainframe processing costs. The NASWA UI Technology Subcommittee said "*The CUBS system is clearly in a class by itself in the world of UI automated applications and could be a model for any state's modernization quest*".

- Monday, May 29, 2006 is Memorial Day. DWS will use the holiday for an opportunity to draw attention to the services we have available for all veterans in Utah, but with a focus on those recently returned to, or will be re-entering the workforce after deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- At the last State Council meeting, we discussed Utah's help to Louisiana. Utah is one of five states helping with Louisiana's backlog as it is taking approximately eight weeks for claims to be paid. Louisiana will reimburse the state for all expenses.
- Utah recently accommodated the Department of Labor's request to provide mentoring and assistance to the state of Montana as they re-organize into one service delivery area, similar to our model. We are able to train approximately 100 staff and shared experiences and best practices as a "one service delivery area" state.
- The agency has been restructured, by creating the Workforce Development and Information Division (WDID) within the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS). This combines Workforce Information and Workforce Development. This will create efficiency within the Department. Steve Maas will assume the position of Director for this new Division. He has over seven years of service with DWS and has been integral in the creation of our highly performing on-line systems at jobs.utah.gov, as well as our targeted industry strategies. Prior to joining DWS, he spent four years with the New Mexico Department of Labor where he was the Director of their Employment Security Division, and 21 years in the private sector in Transportation and Health Care.

Human Capital Employer Needs - Steve Maas

Steve Maas referred to the DWS News Release dated April 18, 2006 which discusses Utah's Employment Situation. He then discussed various Job Vacancy studies and presented a slideshow on the Human Capital Needs in Utah.

Strategic Planning Slideshow - Tani Downing, John Nixon

John Nixon referred to the legislative session which finished up a few weeks ago. John introduced David Hogue, Legislator. There were three main bills that passed: Public Assistance Amendments, Unemployment Insurance Social Security Offset and Employment Security Act Amendments. John

continued this year's state funding requests were one of the largest in recent history. Requests included eRep, Food Stamps, Child Care and General Assistance. John feels DWS fared very well during this year's legislative session. He added DWS is losing some of its funding streams such as TANF, Elimination of Bonus, Wagner-Peyser and WIA.

Tani reported this time last year, we asked the State Council for direction for our 2-year State Plan. She feels DWS is proactive. We want to look at our programs and determine how to do them cheaper, faster, and better without jeopardizing customer service. Last year, we initiated a hiring soft freeze for employees other than front line workers.

Tani discussed DWS efficiencies achieved over the last year. These include Department/Division Reorganization, Administrative Services consolidation, Child Care Policy Simplification, changes to PACMIS, Electronic Job Order Cards, Print Shop Closure, Park City Employment Center Relocation Cost Savings, Fillmore Employment Center Closure and the implementation of CUBS.

Representative David Hogue thinks this is great as not every Department looks out for their employees while creating efficiencies.

This information presented by Tani will need to be rolled into tomorrow's committee meetings. Kevin added at the National level, the America's Job Bank is going away. They are yielding to sites such as Monster.com. Tani mentioned some other states are privatizing their programs as private companies tend to be more efficient.

Waivers - O&P Committee and Youth Council - Connie Laws, Marie Christman
Connie Laws referred to the three waivers:

- *Allow up to 100% transfer between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams Workforce Investment Act, Program Year 2006.*
- *Waive the requirement for reporting Performance Outcome Measures for Workforce Investment Act Title I; Wagner Peyser Act (Labor Exchange); Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002 (Title 38 USC); and Trade Act. Connie explained that common measures go across five major departments. We would like to wave the 17% statutory and move to 100%.*

- *Allow the use of Individual Training Accounts for WIA eligible youth.* This would allow flexibility, and efficiency and would allow for the youth to pay for the training using technology. Currently, WIA youth does not allow for IA transfers. This would allow the youth to experience the impact of making a decision that has a direct impact on their life.

Kevin called for a motion to consider the waivers for approval and public comment.

Waiver #1 - Libbie Zenger motioned to approve the waiver request up to 100% dislocated worker and adult program streams for 2006, Darris Howe seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Waiver #2 - Deb Dull motioned to waive the requirement for performance outcome measures, Wagner-Peyser labor exchange, Leticia Medina seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Waiver #3 - Tammie Lucero motioned to approve individual training accounts, Deb Dull seconded the motion and the motion carried.

These waivers will be submitted to the DOL.

Kevin called for participation of the St. George Employment Center tour. He would like for everyone to see the way the ECs work. Then, we will reconvene at the Holiday Inn for a networking reception. This will allow us to know each other better.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.